

COUNTRY _____ REPORT _____

TOPIC Information on the Strausberg Air Force Depot

25X1

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 6 February 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - one sketch on ditto

REMARKS _____

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The air force depot on Hegermuehlen Strasse in Strausberg _____ in mid-December 1952, _____ The commandant of the installation was an air force officer who had recently been promoted to the rank of colonel. His deputy was a major. The supply officer of the installation was Major Gubin (fnu) and the technical officer was Captain Cexienko (fnu) (phonetic spelling). Non-Russian workers were not employed at the depot.¹ _____ the personnel assigned to the installation were to be rotated in January. Only air force personnel were observed. Training courses were not held. 25X1
2. _____ Motor vehicles continuously operated between the depot, Strausberg airfield and Werder on the Havel River. _____ the depot served all air force units in East Germany. _____ Soviet drivers _____ had driven more than 300 km before reaching the installation.² 25X1
3. Except for the officers all the military personnel assigned to the depot are quartered in building No 2. On weekdays duty hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. No work is being done on Sundays.³ Trucks entering the depot are thoroughly checked at the guardhouse. Accessories such as fuel cans, spare tires, tools, etc. must be left at the guardhouse. Drivers and soldiers must turn in their leather belts, cigarettes, matches and whatever they have in their pockets. All personnel not belonging to the installation are escorted by personnel assigned to the depot.⁴ 25X1
4. Boxes and crates containing air frame sections, landing gear caulings and elevator assemblies were seen in the large shed on the right hand side of the entrance. Thirteen crates containing jet engines were stored in the rear section of this shed. _____ The crates were painted grey and surrounded by hoop-iron screwed together. The crates measured about 270 x 180 x 180 cm, but their dimensions varied slightly. The upper section of the crates is dismantable. _____ the jet engine itself _____ rested on a wooden support fitted with skids. A flat sheet metal container looking like a letter box was attached to the front side of the crate. _____ factory records for the engine were shipped in this container. The jet engine was wrapped in oil paper. Crates may only be opened in the presence of an officer; no unauthorized personnel are allowed to witness the opening of these crates. Six canvas-covered, in-line engines were also seen in the shed.⁴ 25X1

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5. [redacted] a repair shop for jet engines is available at the depot. [redacted] a test stand for jet engines in the southern portion of the depot near the stables. The test stand had been built by a firm in Strausberg. [redacted] crated jet engines to be taken to workshop No 8 which was opposite the test stand. The crates were opened there [redacted] a covered jet engine being taken to the test stand. [redacted] this engine was being tested. [redacted] a so-called engine room at the depot. In this room, 6 or 7 pans which were 2.5 meters long, 1.5 meters wide and 1.5 meters high. A traveling crane was mounted above these pans. [redacted] the cleaning of various individual parts as it is usually done in large ordnance depots. [redacted] jet engines were being repaired or tested at the depot before they were shipped to troop units. [redacted] the installation was essentially a jet engine distribution point. 25X1
6. Equipment observed [redacted] at the installation included air frame parts and other aircraft accessories, jack-frames, ground anchors and ladders. [redacted] a Soviet soldier testing a battery commander's telescope. [redacted] a dismantled aircraft weapon lying on a table. The weapon was about 1 meter long; its bolt mechanism was about 35 cm long.⁵ 25X1
7. In another workshop [redacted] several sedans fitted with a box-like superstructure about 1 meter high in their rear. The box had a hinged lid which was fitted with a red lamp in its middle. A standard motor vehicle headlight was seen at the lower left corner of the rear side of the box; above it was a socket piece to which a hose could be fastened. A three-quarter-inch metal hose about 10 meters long was stored by the side of the drivers seat. [redacted] this type of sedan was used for the pre-heating of oil in aircraft weapons provided with hydraulic operated recoil buffers.⁶ 25X1
8. Outgoing rail shipments observed at the installation included:
29 October. Two crates for jet engines, 5 tank trucks and a wrecking truck with trailer.
30 October. One radio truck, 1 tank truck and a large crate which was loaded on a flatcar.
31 October. Two railroad cars each loaded with 4 long boxes in addition to 5 tank trucks.
1 November. Eight tank trucks and about 10 boxcars loaded with undetermined goods. [redacted] 25X1
- Between 9 and 18 December, 5 tank trucks left the installation. Only a total of 9 tank trucks remained. On 22 December, 4 crates for jet engines left the depot; only 8 crates remained at the installation.⁷
9. Motor vehicles observed at the installation from 11 through 18 December included:
[redacted] truck with trailer [redacted] which picked up motor vehicle accessories and tires; 25X1
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trucks;

truck, which picked up boxes at the depot;
 jeep, which belongs to the depot;
 truck with trailer [] which picked up tires;
 truck, occupied by air force soldiers;
 truck, which belongs to the depot;
 truck, which picked up tires;
 sedan of the commandant of the installation;
 truck;
 truck with trailer []
 truck, which was fitted with a little red flag;
 truck with trailer [] which had picked up duraluminum
 pipes and boxes;
 truck, which was loaded with aircraft tires and boxes;
 truck, which was loaded with boxes;
 fire truck, which belongs to the depot;
 trucks, which belong to the depot;
 truck, which picked up tires;
 truck, from which demijohns enclosed in wickerwork and sheet
 metal containers were loaded into a railroad car.⁸

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1. Comment. It was reported previously that 20 officers, 100 EM and 8 women were assigned to the Strausberg air force depot. [] Soviet officers Gubin and Gerlenko were reported previously. []
2. Comment. This information appears credible and agrees with previous reports, according to which motor vehicle [] from all over East Germany were observed at the installation.
3. Comment. The officers are billeted in a settlement north of Elisabeth Strasse. []
4. Comment. The large shed mentioned [] is probably identical with the air frame and engine department mentioned [] It appears that the utilization of the building has not changed after November 1950. The description of the crates for jet engines as given [] agrees with the information obtained []
5. []
6. Comment. Such sedans fitted with a box-like superstructure were observed previously. [] The red lamp fitted on them indicates that these vehicles are designed for use at airfields. It is believed improbable that these sedans are used as pre-heaters for aircraft armament.



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7.  Comment. The ratio of incoming and outgoing shipments at the Strausberg air force depot fluctuates greatly. It is unusually that no outgoing shipments occur during a specific time period  for November and December.

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8.



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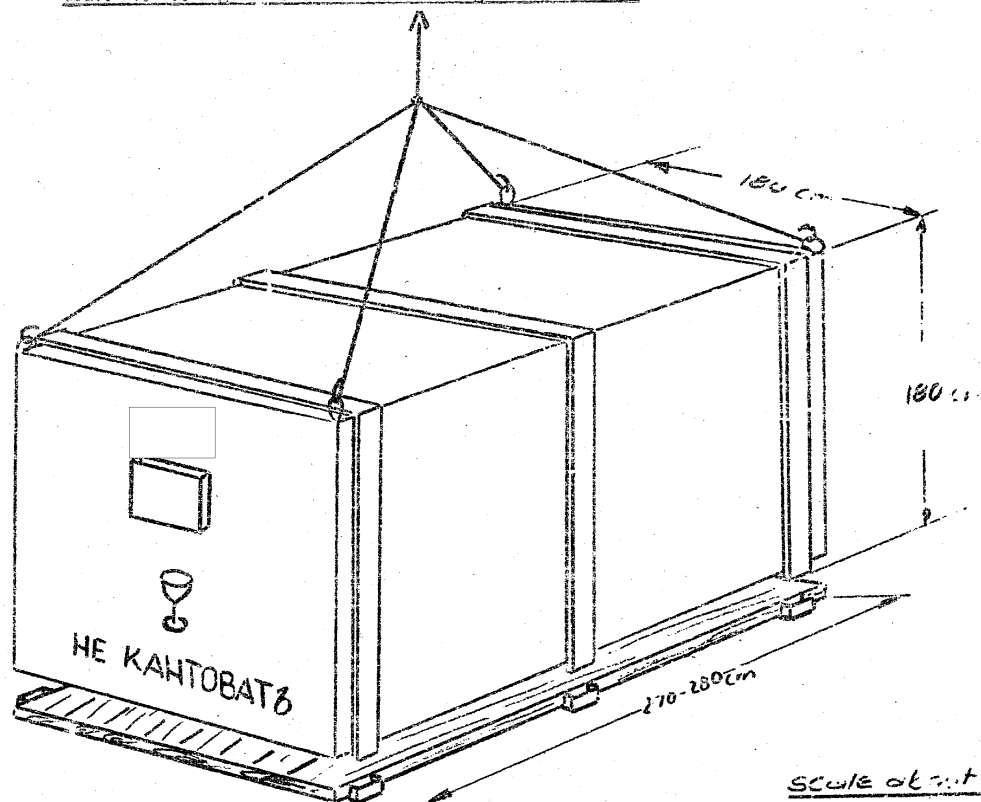
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Added to



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Crate for Jet Engine Seen at the Strausberg Air Force Depot



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SECURITY INFORMATION

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scale about 1:25